



Texas Department of Insurance

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News Release

FOR MORE INFORMATION
John Greeley or Ben Gonzalez
(512) 463-6425

Number of Job Injuries, Illnesses Requiring Days Off Work Increases in Texas in 2006

AUSTIN, TX – In 2006, the number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work in private industry in Texas increased by nearly 5 percent compared to 2005. Although 3,230 more of these types of injuries and illnesses were reported in 2006 compared to 2005, the 2006 total is less than the numbers reported in 2004 and 2003.

In 2006, the rate of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers in Texas was 104.4 compared to a national rate of 128.0. Other Texas results from the 2006 Survey of Occupational Injury and Illness include:

- Service-providing industries reported 60 percent more nonfatal injuries and illnesses than the goods-producing industries, although the rate per 10,000 full-time workers was 14 percent less.
- Workers aged 35 to 44 years experienced the largest percentage (27) of the total number of cases involving days away from work.
- Among the ten occupations reporting the most cases with days away from work, construction workers experienced the highest median days away from work (27) although they experienced the fifth highest number of injuries or illnesses.

This is the third release reporting on 2006 data from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) workplace safety and health statistical series. The first release, in August 2007, covered work-related fatalities from the 2006 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. In October 2007, BLS reported that there were 258,515 nonfatal injuries and illnesses in Texas in 2006, based on the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. The releases are published by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) in cooperation with the BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

In 2006, Texas private industry reported a total of 72,660 injuries and illnesses involving days away from work. This was a 4.8 percent increase from the 69,340 cases reported in 2005. A total of 74,080 nonfatal injuries and illnesses were reported in Texas in 2004; the total number of cases in 2003 was 82,110. The median days away from work for Texas in 2006 was 8 days, which is lower than the median of 9 days for the state for 2005 and higher than the nationally reported median days of 7.

(more)

Table A. Nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work, private industry, 2003-2006

	Texas				National
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006
Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work ¹	82,110	74,080	69,340	72,660	1, 183, 500
Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work ²	125.1	110.0	100.9	104.4	128.0
Median days away from work ³	10	9	9	8	7

TDI-DWC collects survey data in order to assist employers, safety professionals and policymakers in identifying occupational safety and health issues in the state. TDI-DWC also provides various safety and health services to promote safe and healthy workplaces, including free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations; regional and on-site safety training; free safety and health publications; free safety training video loans; guidance on return-to-work programs and drug-free workplace programs; and the Safety Violations Hotline. For more information on these services, visit the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/safety/>, or call 800-687-7080.

A full version of this release is available on the agency website at: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/news/2008/news200837.html>. TDI-DWC will release more in-depth injury and illness analysis in its quarterly newsletter supplement, *Safety by the Numbers*. Additional Texas fatal and nonfatal occupational injury and illness data are available by contacting us at 512-804-4599, InjuryAnalysis@tdi.state.tx.us or by visiting our website at: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/safety/sis/index.html>.

Details about the national BLS injury and illness data can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/iif.oshcdnew.htm>.

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1 Days away from work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

2 Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time workers and were calculated as: $(N / EH) \times 20,000,000$ where, N = number of injuries and illnesses, EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, 20,000,000 = base for 10,000 full-time equivalent workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

3 Median days away from work is the measure used to summarize the varying lengths of absences from work among the cases with days away from work. Half the cases involved more days and half involved less days than a specified median. Median days away from work are represented in actual values.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics , U.S. Department of Labor, November 8, 2007